Administrative Reforms Commission

† *168. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Administrative Reforms Commission constituted by Government has started functioning;

(b) if not the handicaps it is facing; and

(c) if so, by when this commission is likely to submit its report to Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) to (c) The second Administrative Reforms Commission which was constituted on 31.8.2005 has already started functioning. The Commission is required to submit its report (s) to the Government within one year of its constitution.

Indian Artists in Pakistan

*169. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Pakistan have removed ban on performance by Indian Artists in their country;

(b) if so, whether Government have been informed about this development, and

(c) if not, whether Government have tried to know the authenticity of the news coming from across the border to this effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) There is not official ban on Indian Artists holding performances in Pakistan. However, Government of Pakistan follows an extremely restrictive visa policy towards Indian cultural personalities and artists for performances in Pakistan. No change has been notice in this policy.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.